



Faculty Recognition June 6, 2006

The Naval Postgraduate School
Monterey, California

The Hamming Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award Presented to Associate Chair for Instruction Gail Fann Thomas



Prof. R.W. Hamming

The emphasis of the Professor Richard Wesley Hamming Teaching Award is distinguished from the Schieffelin Teaching Award by setting criteria beyond classroom excellence, and obtaining input from a diverse population within the Naval Postgraduate School community. The goal is to identify faculty members whose teaching strengths exist in previously unrecognized categories, who does an excellent job in classroom teaching as evidenced by the students' mastery of the course material and whose theses supervision is recognized to be excellent.

Gail Fann Thomas received her doctorate in Business and Education from Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona. She joined the faculty at the Naval Postgraduate School in 1989 after serving on the faculty at Arizona State University's College of Business. While at Arizona State she taught communication and entrepreneurship.

Dr. Thomas conducts research on such topics as collaboration, communication competencies for managers at various levels of the organization, and communication as it relates to strategy and organizational change efforts. One of her ongoing studies focuses on the development of interagency collaboration for homeland security. This project examines ways that collaboration contributes to inter-organizational performance.

Dr. Thomas has published in several academic journals and most recently co-authored a booklet on conflict and teams. This booklet builds on the Thomas-Kilmann Conflict Mode Instrument, which allows team members to identify their predominant modes for dealing with conflict and then use that information to maximize their team's effectiveness.

Gail has also served in various administrative and leadership capacities. At NPS she served as Associate Chair for five years where she conducted operations for the Department of Systems Management (now, the Graduate School of Business and Public Policy). She currently serves on the Board of Directors for her professional organization and served as Associate Editor for her field's primary journal. Before her academic career, she was co-owner and manager of a computer firm that developed turn-key computer systems for hospitals, retail, and legal organizations.

In 2004, Dr. Thomas was awarded the Distinguished Member Award by her professional organization. In 2005 she received her professional organization's Outstanding Research Award.

